

ago.

These difficulties are reminiscent of those that recently contributed to the abandonment of the Navy's attempts, at nearby Sugar Grove, to build a 600-foot, fully steerable dish. Its task, as later reported, was to trap domestic Soviet radio signals bouncing off the moon.

The weight of the Navy dish was so great that it allegedly proved impracticable to design a system with enough wheels to support it.

### **Comparatively Light**

The newly completed dish here is 300 feet in diameter and twenty-three stories high when aimed at the zenith. It is comparatively light, weighing only 600 tons. By contrast the 250-foot dish at Jodrell Bank in England weighs 750 tons. The largest movable dish in this country heretofore has

been one at Stanford University, in California, 150 feet wide.

A 210-foot dish that can be turned in any direction is in operation in Australia and one of the same size is to be built at Goldstone, Calif., for communications with vehicles deep in space.

A hemispheric bowl 1,000 feet wide is being constructed in Puerto Rico under the auspices of Cornell University and is expected to be completed next year. Since the spherical surface does not focus reflected waves onto a single point, an electronic system mounted on a beam about 100 feet long will be needed to correct for this deficiency.

By manipulating this beam, the Puerto Rico telescope, large as a football stadium, will be able to scan any point within 20 degrees of the zenith, according to astronomers here.

Possibly the largest radio

telescope of all is an array of antennas in the Soviet Union laid out in a huge cross. Each array is more than half a mile long and some forty yards wide.

Such a system, originally developed in Australia, has a very large effective area for receiving signals. The Russian one is known, among astronomers, as "The Red Cross."

Observations made by the new instrument here are recorded in a nearby vault by tape-punchers that must run at a wild pace to capture as much as possible during the forty seconds that any one spot in the heavens is in focus.

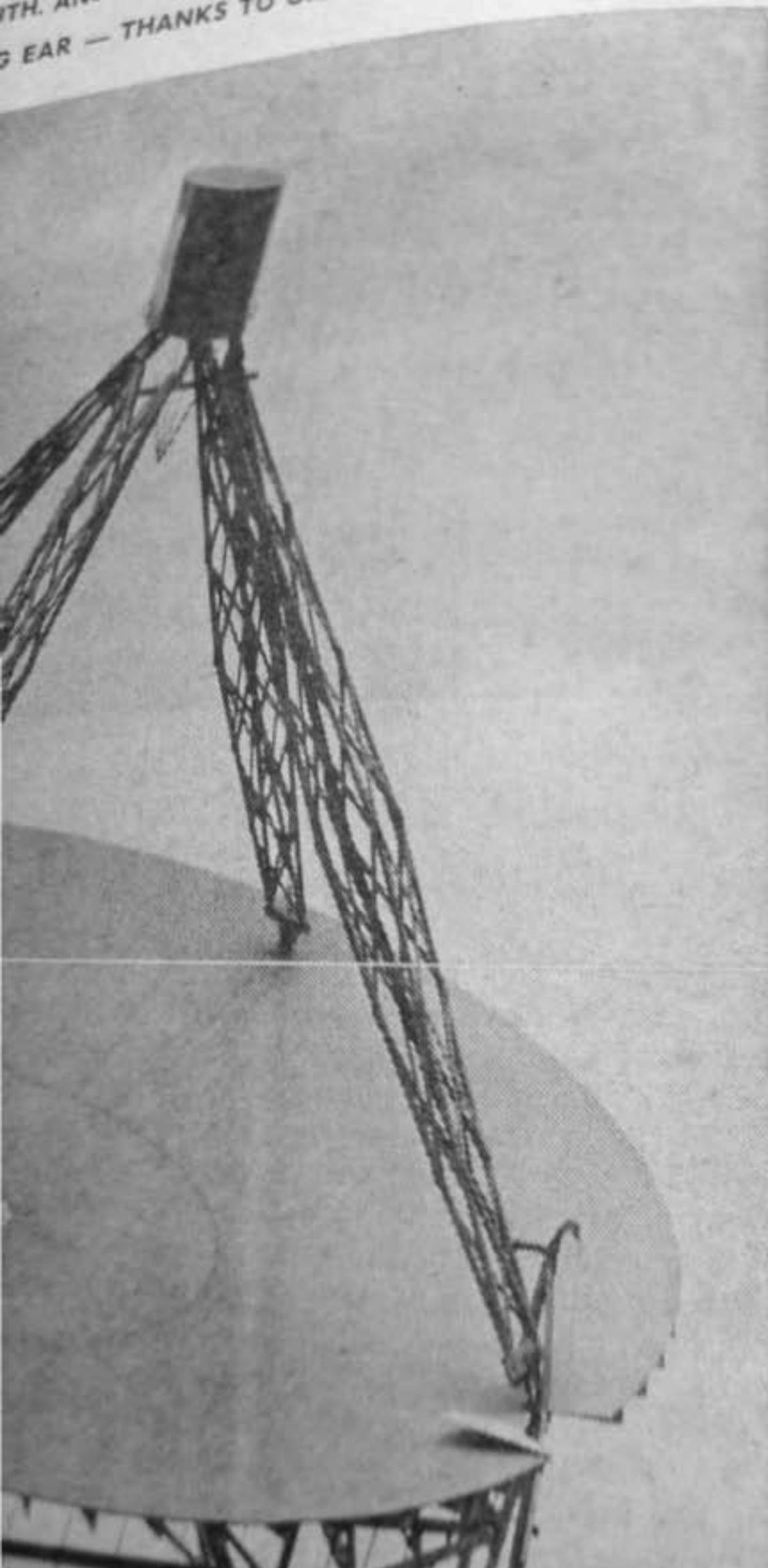
Earlier radio telescope observations have picked up emissions from the very intense radiation belts that encircle Jupiter.

With the new scope it is planned to see if there are also belts around such planets as Uranus, Neptune and Saturn. The existence of radia-



# Big Ear You Have

WITH. AND IT IS KNOWN THAT MAINE HAS THE BIG EYE,  
G EAR — THANKS TO GREENBANK — GOES TO WEST VIRGINIA.



## Where the Gripes Of Wrath Are Stored

By Joe D. Williams

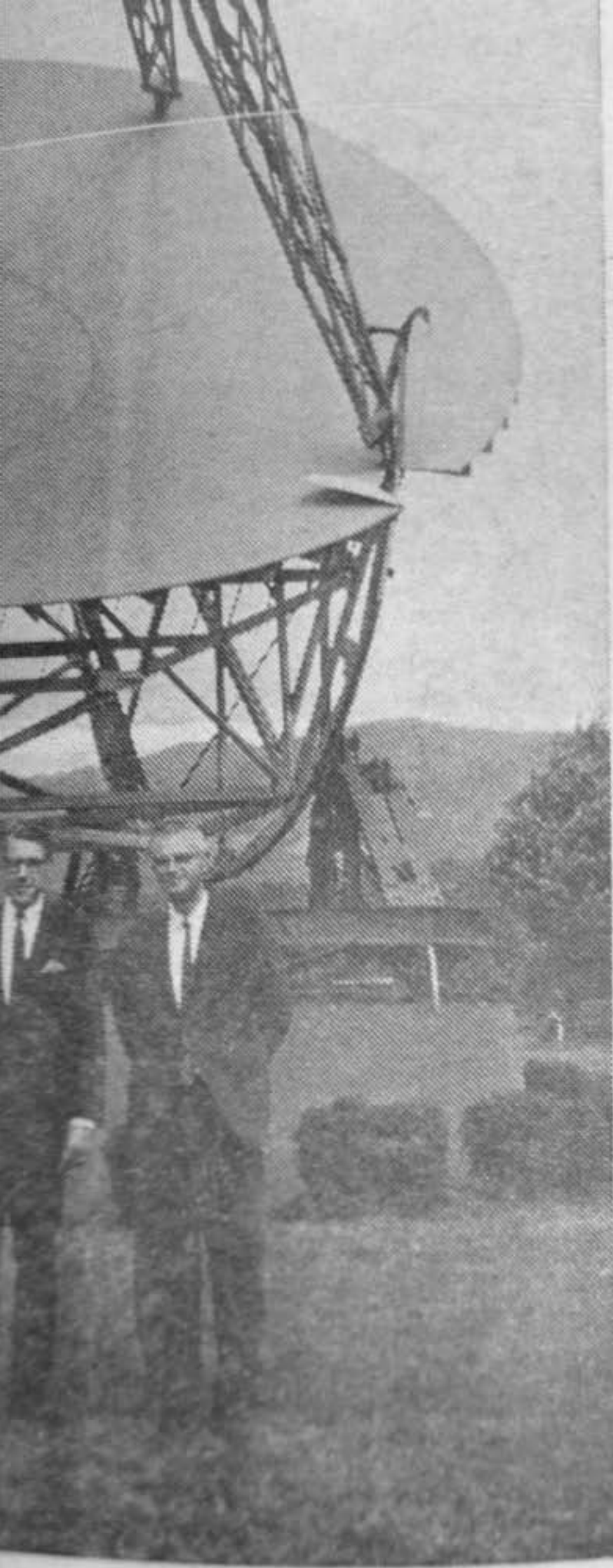
What did the poet mean when he wrote: "There are kindred souls that live apart in a fellowless firmament."

This planet is known to be millions of years old yet we know very little of its history before recorded time. Our recorded history is but a few hundred years old. During those few hundred years we have advanced into the civilization we have today. We have come through periods which we call "ages" and now we are living in what we choose to call the atomic and scientific age.

God reveals to us secrets only when we are able to receive them. Our forefathers who crossed mountains and plains could not have used jet planes or television for our civilization, in the scientific sense, had not progressed far enough at that time for such inventions.

Is it not possible that at some future date, scientific and psychic principles will come to a meeting place? We know that certain combinations of chemicals, minerals, electricity and other elements produce radio and television. We

flowers from page 11  
grow and blo  
while the trees a  
and then in  
season in  
the garden  
or even b  
utilized to ob  
shading.  
light soil is  
important factor  
Examine the  
as near as  
a sandy soil.  
Does  
a loam. Does  
much leaf n  
the soil care  
of the plan  
different soil f  
surface. Unfo  
in home g  
the proper  
flowers. Th  
be remedie  
necessary to wor  
peat, or hu  
garden soil in  
the natural  
it is humu  
This can be  
commercial p  
is better to  
inches of le  
from maples  
from oaks  
which is need  
a too light, v  
day, swamp  
heavy soil. Use  
should not be  
flowers for it  
a rank un  
When In  
plants  
when inact



...ic age. ... that we ...  
God reveals to us ...  
only when we are able to ...  
ceive them. Our forefathers ...  
who crossed mountains and ...  
plains could not have used ...  
planes or television for ...  
civilization, in the ...  
sense, had not progressed ...  
enough at that time for ...  
inventions.

'Is it not possible that at ...  
some future date, science ...  
and psychic principal will ...  
to a meeting place? We know ...  
that certain combinations of ...  
chemicals, minerals, electric ...  
ty and other elements produce ...  
radio and television. We also ...  
know that the human body is ...  
made up of similar elements. ...  
Then, is it possible for some ...  
one to discover that certain ...  
persons have the right proportions ...  
of these elements which would ...  
make it possible for one person ...  
to "tune in" with another person ...  
and what today is called thought ...  
transference or psychic power? ...  
Such persons are said to be ...  
psychic.

To the person who has never ...  
experienced psychic power, this ...  
principal or power, this may ...  
seem fantastic or impossible, ...  
but let us remember that radio ...  
and television would have been ...  
considered fantastic and impossible ...  
a few years ago.

It is a fact that in some ...  
countries of the world, which ...  
have not advanced in scientific ...  
development such as the ...  
advanced in the ...

... This can ...  
... better to leaf ...  
... from maples and ...  
... oaks depend ...  
... is needed. If ...  
... light, work ...  
... swamp much ...  
... heavy soil. Usually, ...  
... should not be used ...  
... for it often ...  
... a rank unnat

### When Inactive

... plants are ...  
when inactive. ...  
blossoming plant ...  
applies after the ...  
flowering, for ...  
die down and ...  
less active, but ...  
can still be found ...  
there are some plan ...  
down and disappe ...  
... such as ...  
Dutchman's Br ...  
Corn, Blood Ro ...  
the-pulpit. These ...  
bulbs or thick, ...  
They may be mov ...  
the leaves be ...  
after that the ...  
to find. Those t ...  
down complete ...  
in the fall. ...  
fall blooming ...  
generally be set ...  
To sum up, ...  
that bloom early ...  
are usually best ...  
fall, and those ...  
in the ...





enbank

tion belts would show that those planets have strong magnetic fields.

The entire instrument is suspended from two towers, with four cables reaching down to support a frame that carries half the weight. The dish is swung by a simple rig consisting of four out-sized bicycle chains. According to Dr. Frank Drake, of the observatory, it moves in complete silence, whereas such telescopes usually "clank like Marley's ghost."

## RENFRO VALLEY BUGLE

A Monthly Paper  
Printed Weekly

Today is called the transference or psychic power. Such persons are said to be psychic.

To the person who never experienced psychic power, this may seem fantastic or impossible, but let us remember that radio and television would have been considered fantastic and impossible a few years ago.

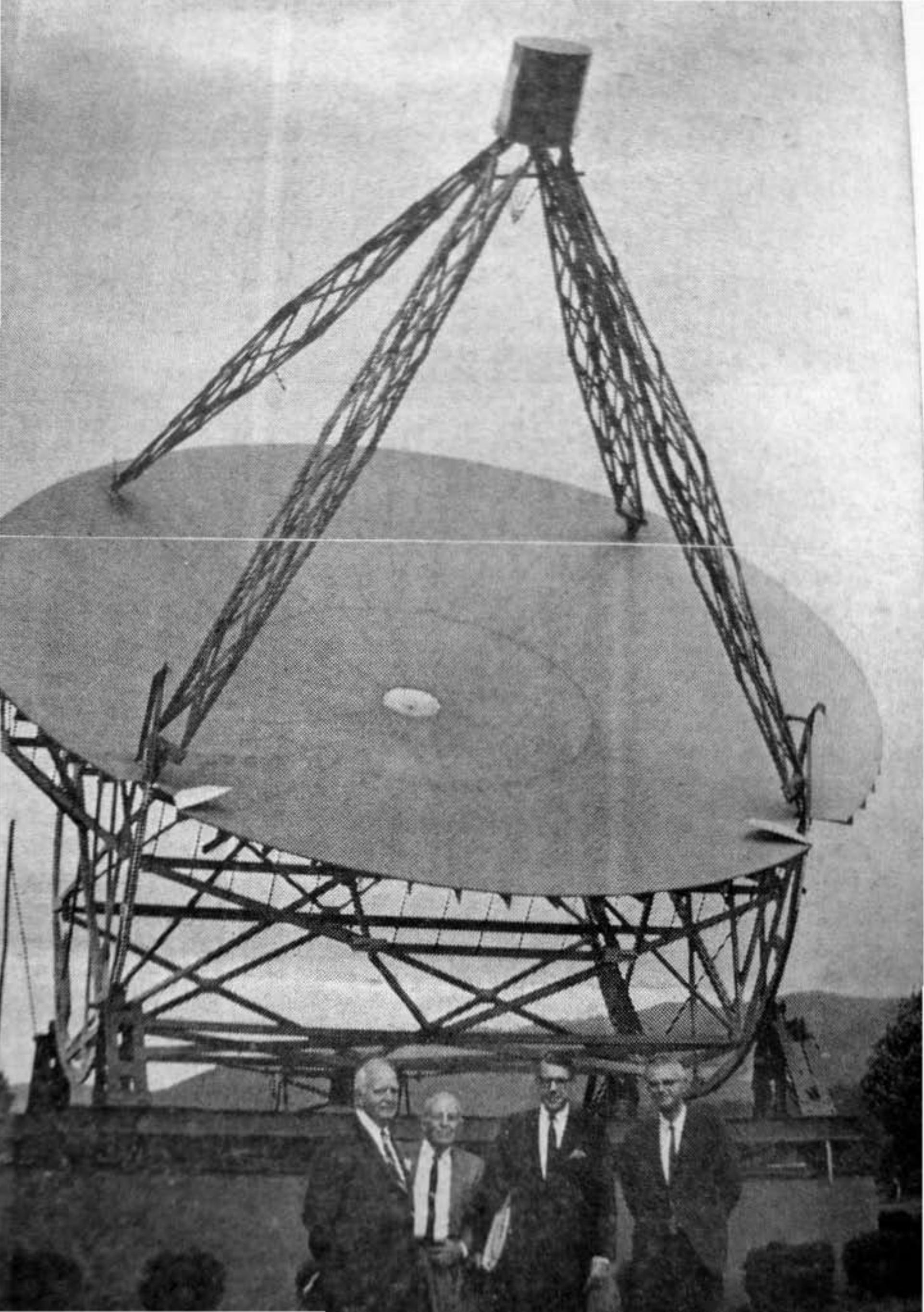
It is a fact that in some countries of the world, which have not advanced in scientific development such as we have, are advanced in the use of psychic power and can actually communicate in certain instances by thought transference or psychic power.

Did the lost generations before we have recorded history have such power? If so, what caused the break between their civilization and ours? Could it have been that there was an atomic age millions of years ago?

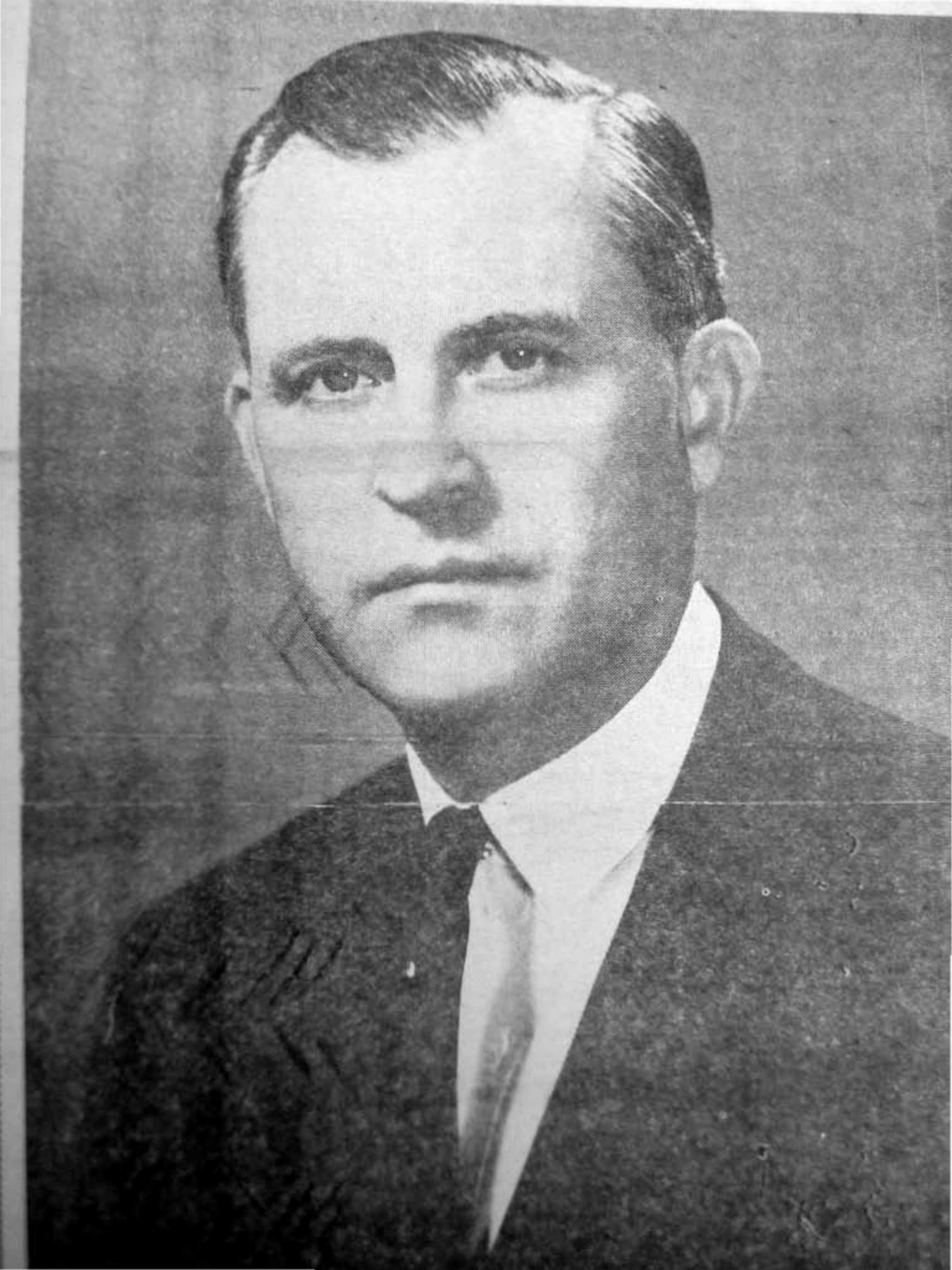


**Sanitary**  
And

...person and ...  
...called the ...  
...transference or psychic power. ...  
...Such persons are said to be ...  
...psychic.  
...To the person who ...  
...never experienced psychic ...  
...power, this may seem ...  
...fantastic or impossible, ...  
...but let us remember that ...  
...radio and television would ...  
...have been considered ...  
...fantastic and impossible ...  
...a few years ago.  
...It is a fact that in ...  
...some countries of the world, ...  
...which have not advanced in ...  
...scientific development such ...  
...as we have, are advanced in ...  
...the use of psychic power and ...  
...can actually communicate in ...  
...certain instances by thought ...  
...transference or psychic power.  
...Did the lost generations ...  
...before we have recorded ...  
...history have such power? If ...  
...so, what caused the break ...  
...between their civilization and ...  
...ours? Could it have been that ...  
...there was an atomic age ...  
...millions of years ago?  
...fall blooming ...  
...within six ...  
...the plant is to ...  
...the distance, w ...  
...papers and ...  
...the flower ...  
...as it was ...  
...and shade ...  
...after trans







# Home, Boss

## While We Are At It, Happy Birthday, Too!

We at Hillbilly are happy that your innards are in good order after your sojourn in neighboring land. We hope that the removal and repair job put you in excellent condition to face the prob- of the forthcoming Centennial year, which come tion to the hundreds of other worries that face occupant of the big red house on Kanawha Boule-

And while we're in a congratulatory mood, let our best wishes (even if they are belated) to the occasion of your 51st birthday, which you celebrated last Saturday. May the next 51 years prove useful and full of good works.

Christmas Issue



# Civil War

THE STORY OF THE AMERICAN CIVIL  
BY WEEK AS IT HAPPENED

# the Hills

WEST VIRGINIA HILLS TOLD WEEK  
ALL IN NEWSPAPER STYLE

A Little  
Back In  
War  
S

## A Soldier's War

This week the publishers do, namely killing, and present the artistic work of one of them, a private of Company G, 47th Ohio. These twenty lithographs are of the Bridge area and many of the scenes are without doubt to many readers. This is our Christmas gift to each of you. This time we wish you a prosperous, and more thankful 1863.

1862  
1863

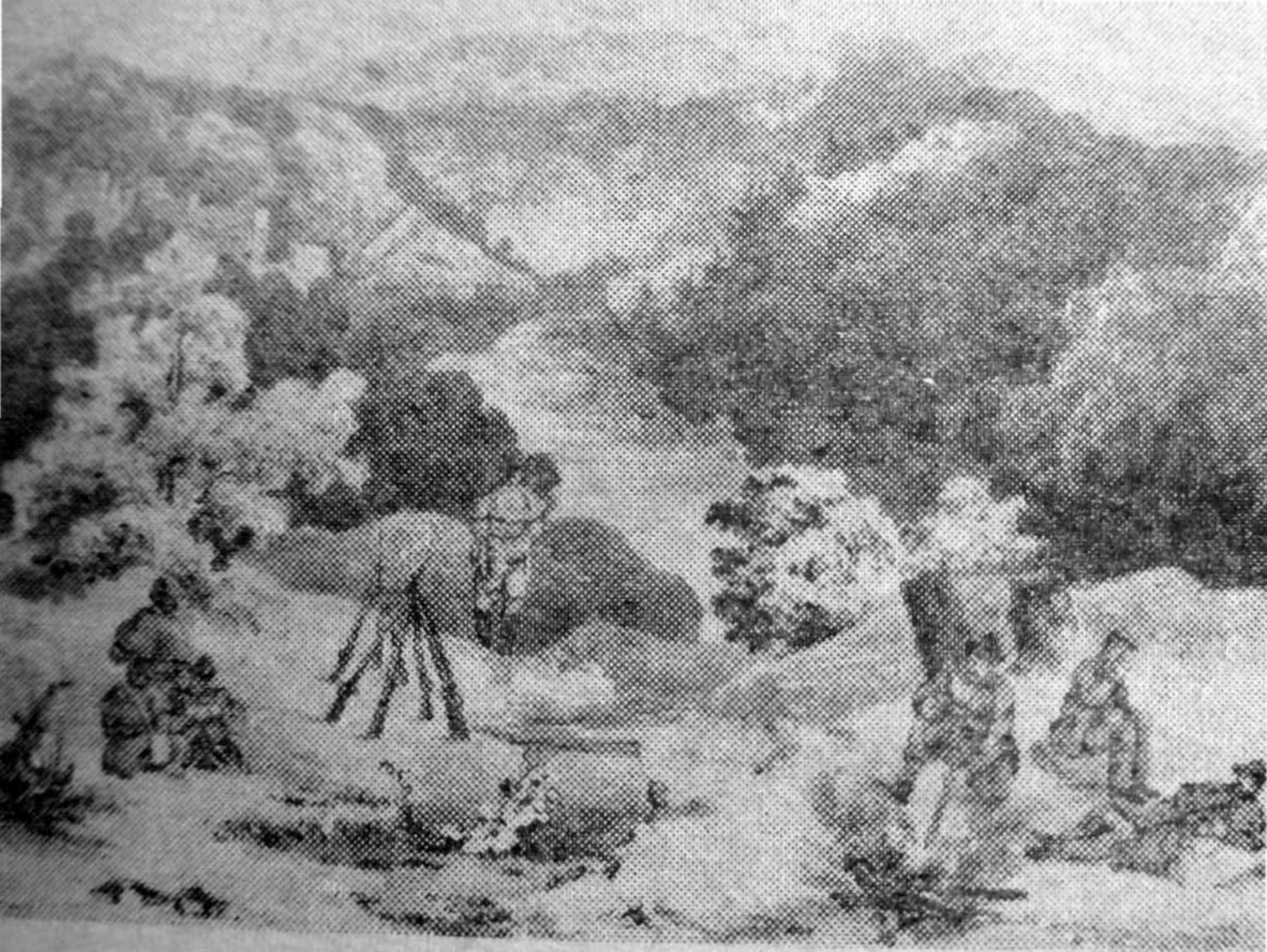


HILLBILLY



Picket on New River: Camp Anderson





View from Hawks Nest toward the West





**Battle: Carnifex Ferry**





**March to the Landing**



**Advance in the Woods. Camp Anderson**





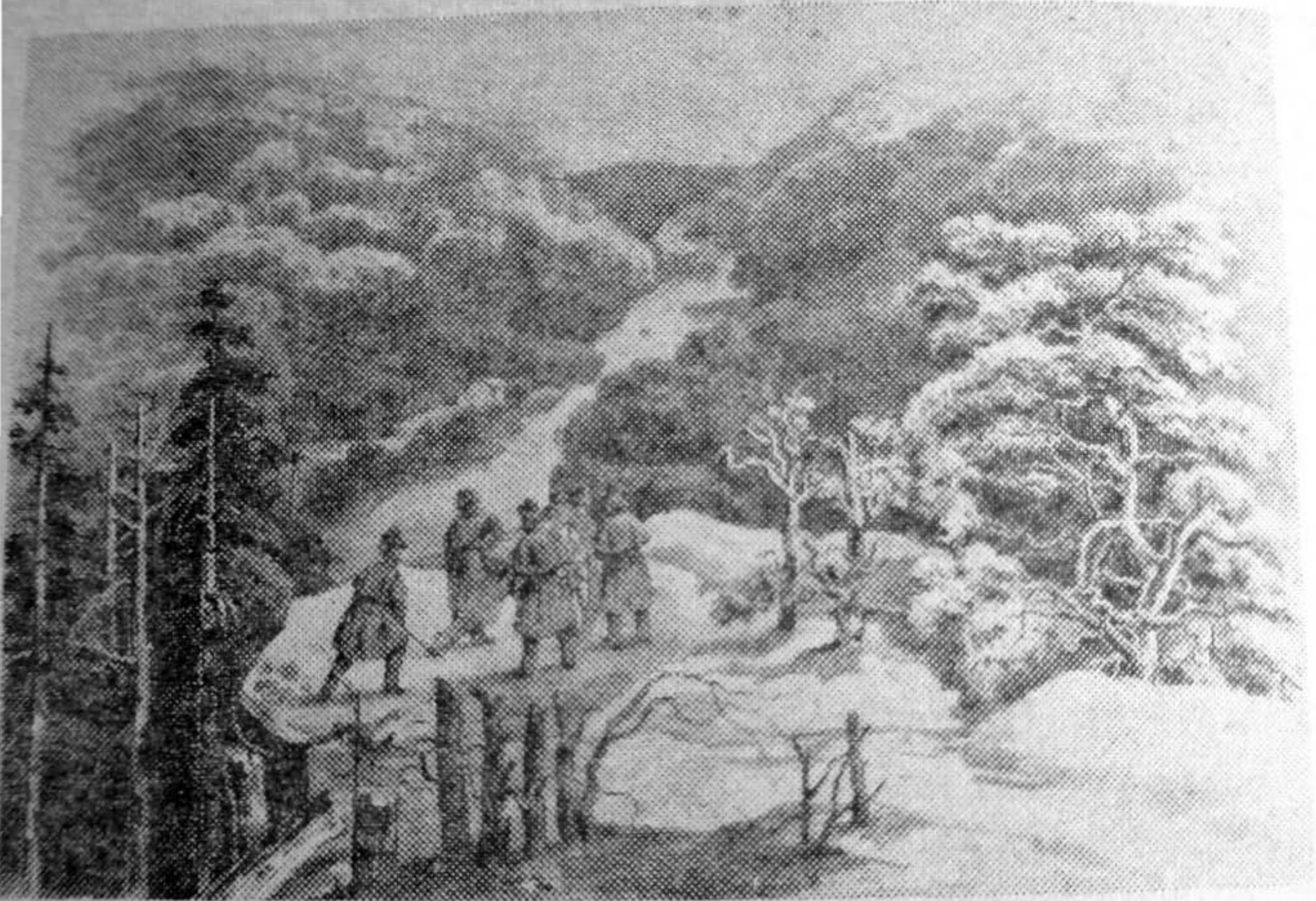
Pickets in the Woods





Crossing to Fayetteville





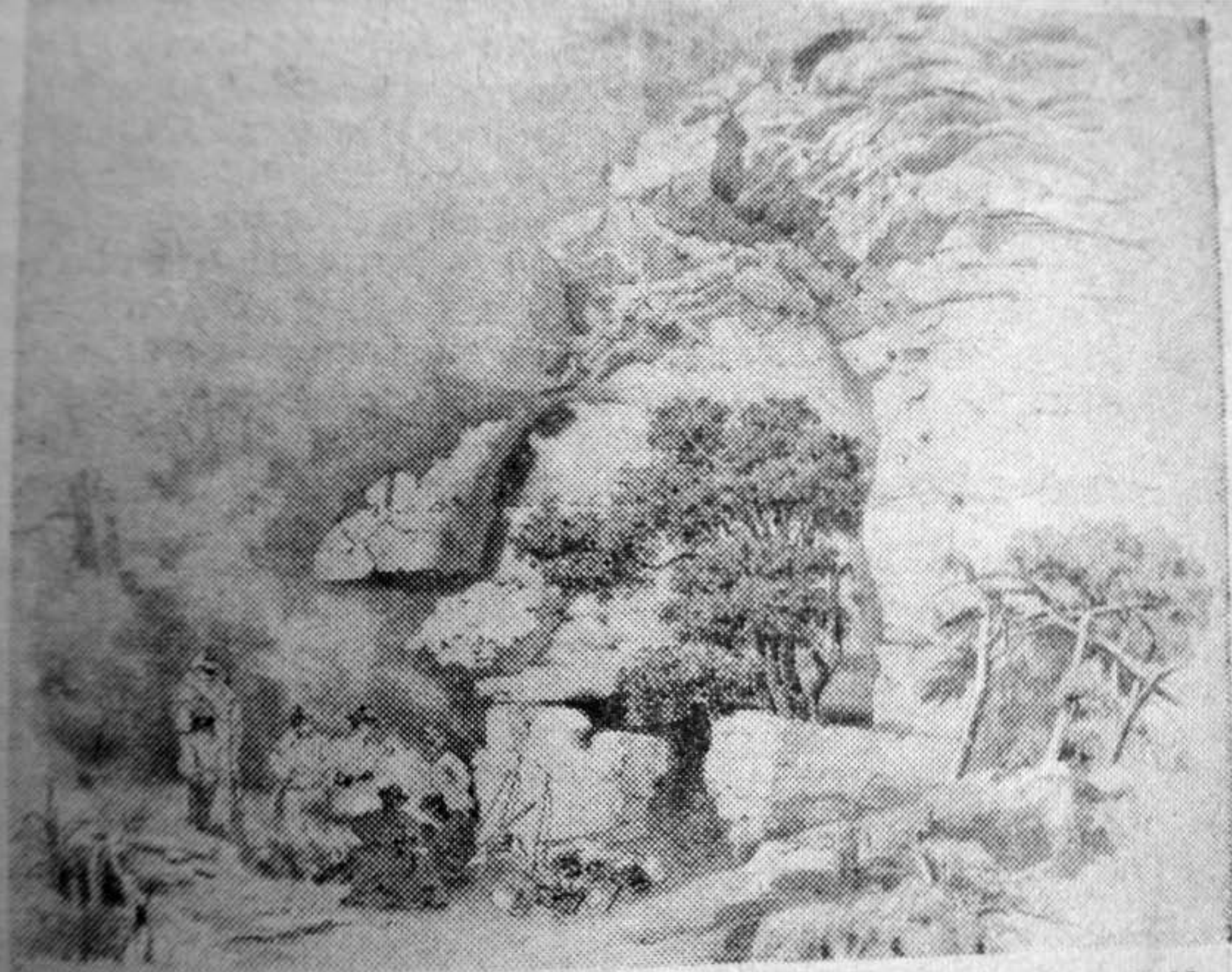
View from Hawks Nest toward the East





**Skirmishing: New River**

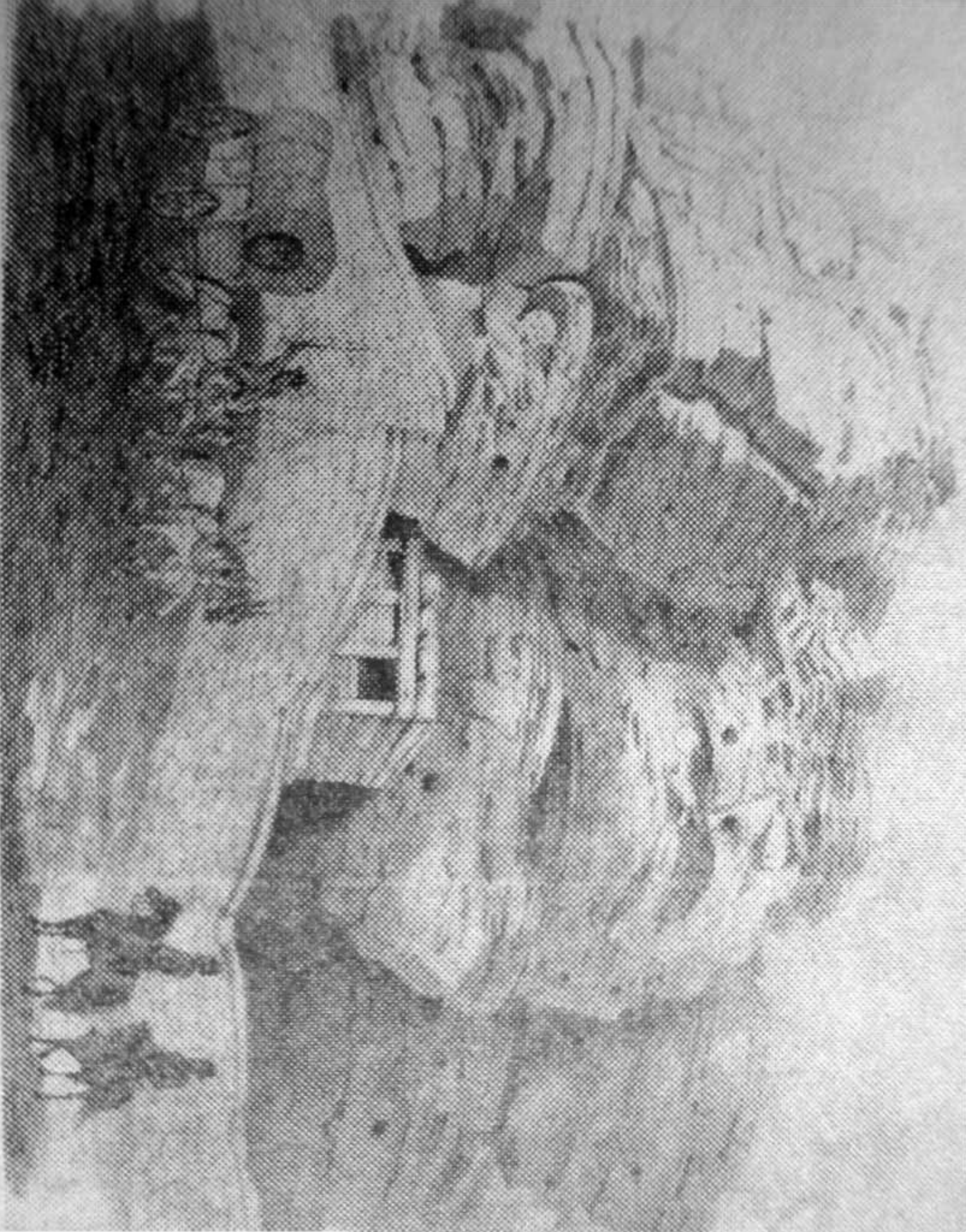




**Picket on Lovers Leap: Between Tompkins Farm and Gauley Bridge**



View Near Gauley Ferry

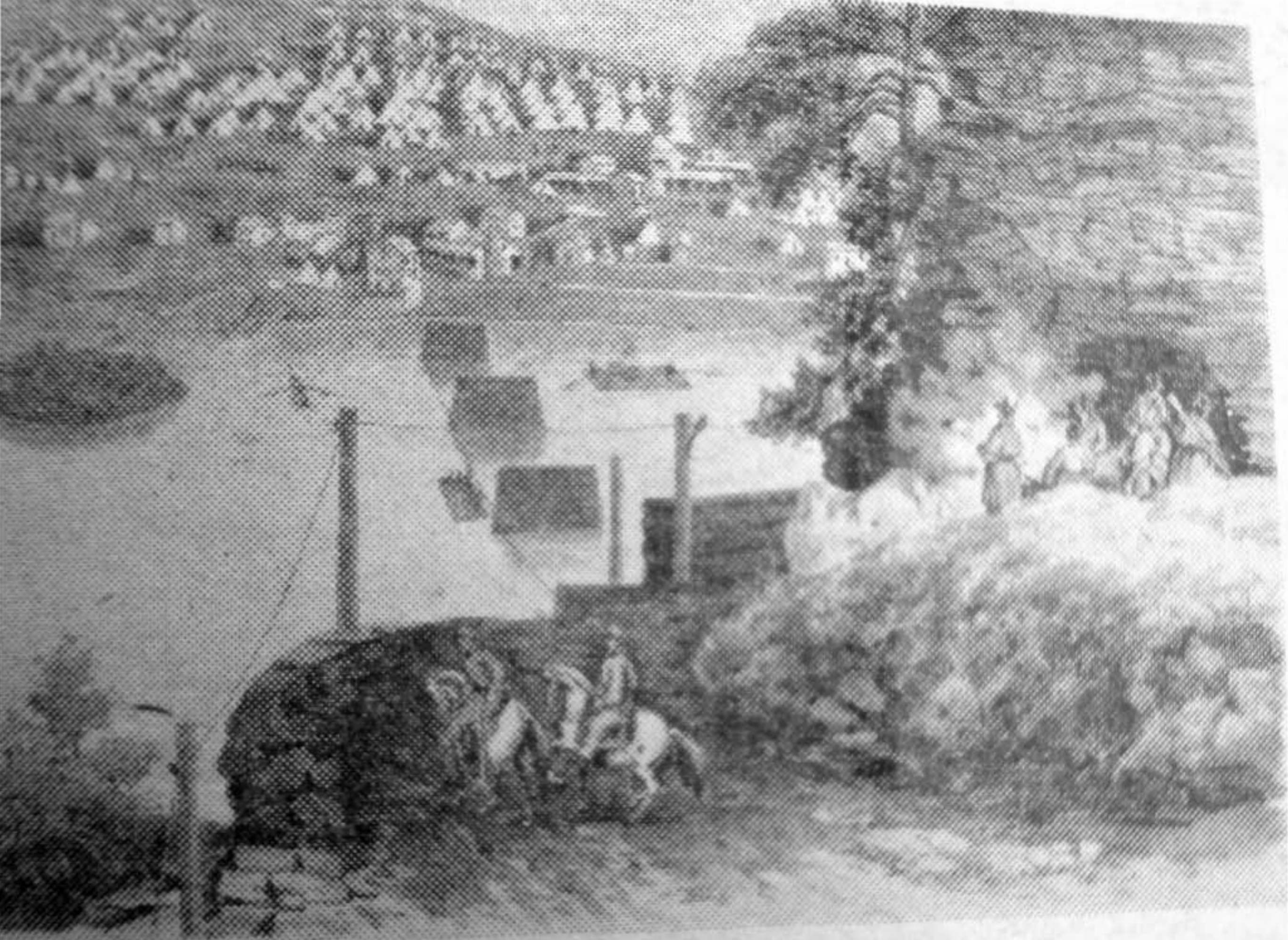






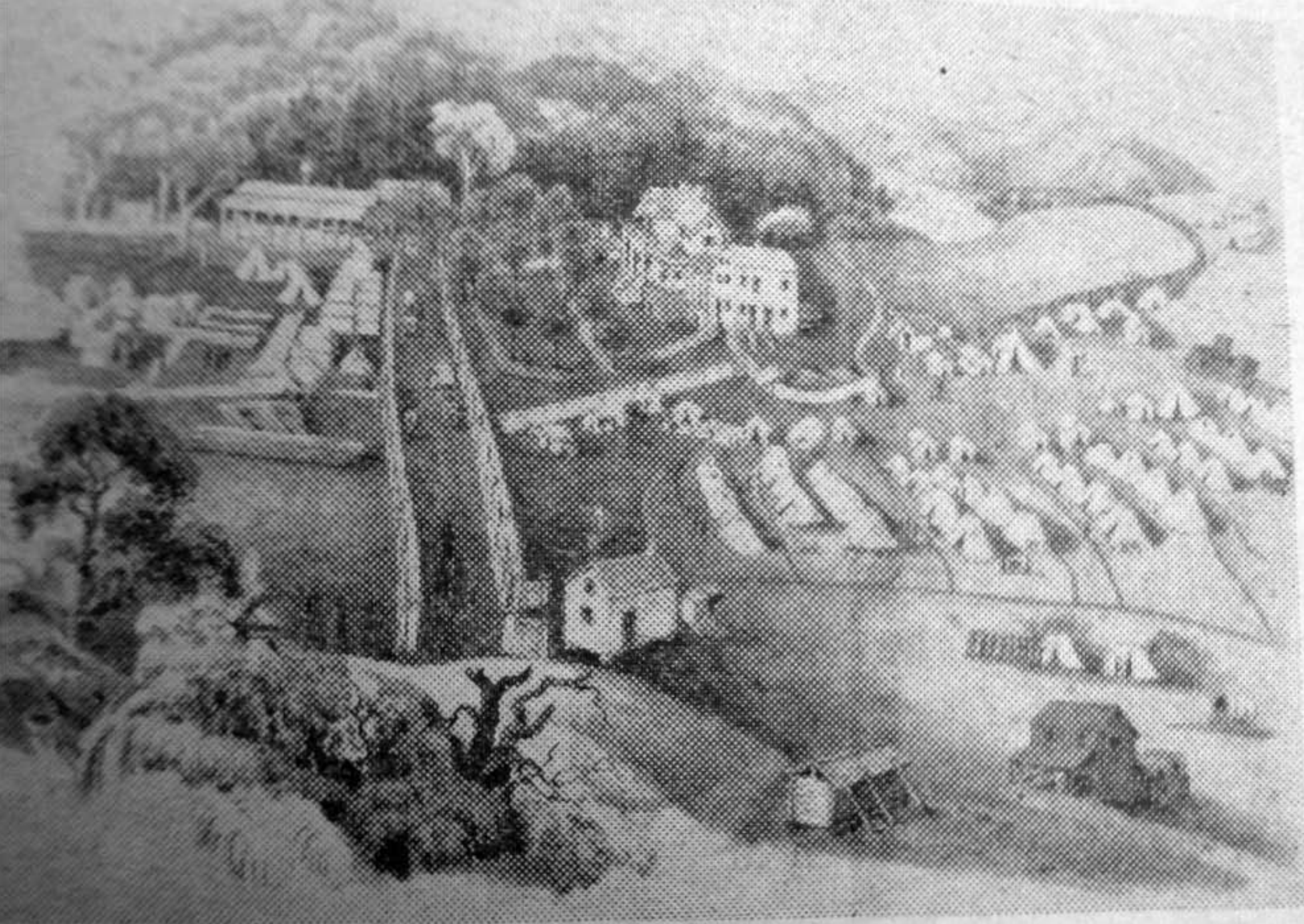
**Hawks Nest 800 Feet High on New River**





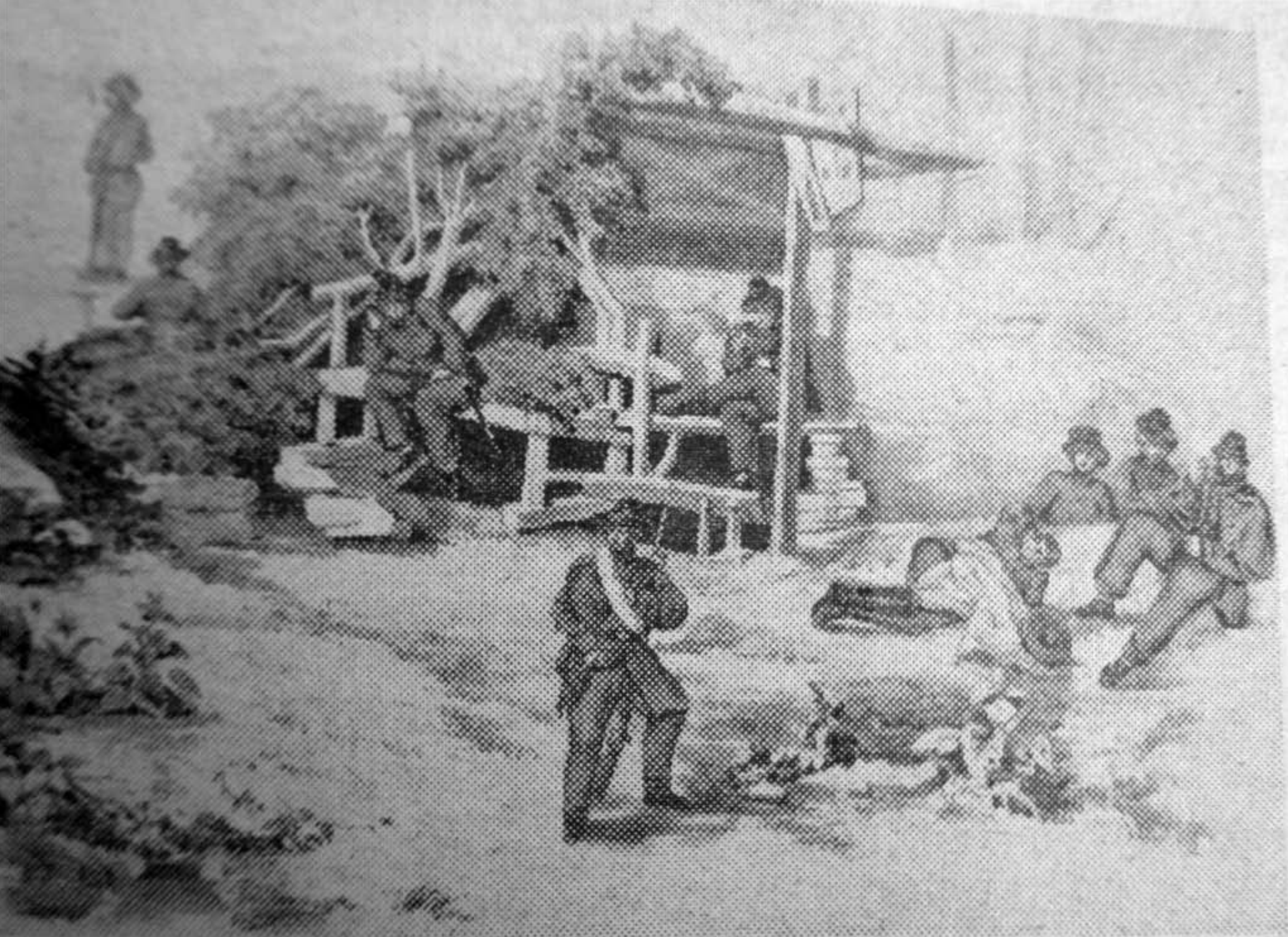
**Camp: Gauley Bridge**





**Tompkins Farm: Camp Gauley Mount.**





Pickets on the Road. From Camp Anderson to Tompkins Farm





All on the Road from Tompkins Farm to Gauley Bridge



story  
azine.  
popu-  
made  
acted  
time  
t the  
be  
they  
hway  
unty,  
them  
ivid"  
nem-  
many  
ovie  
bout

Her-  
hort  
tain  
the  
eek-  
the  
of  
ome



General store at Crabbottom, with Devil's Backbone beyond



Russell Rexrode stands in front of Varner house.

monocled Erich von Stroheim  
also of that period.





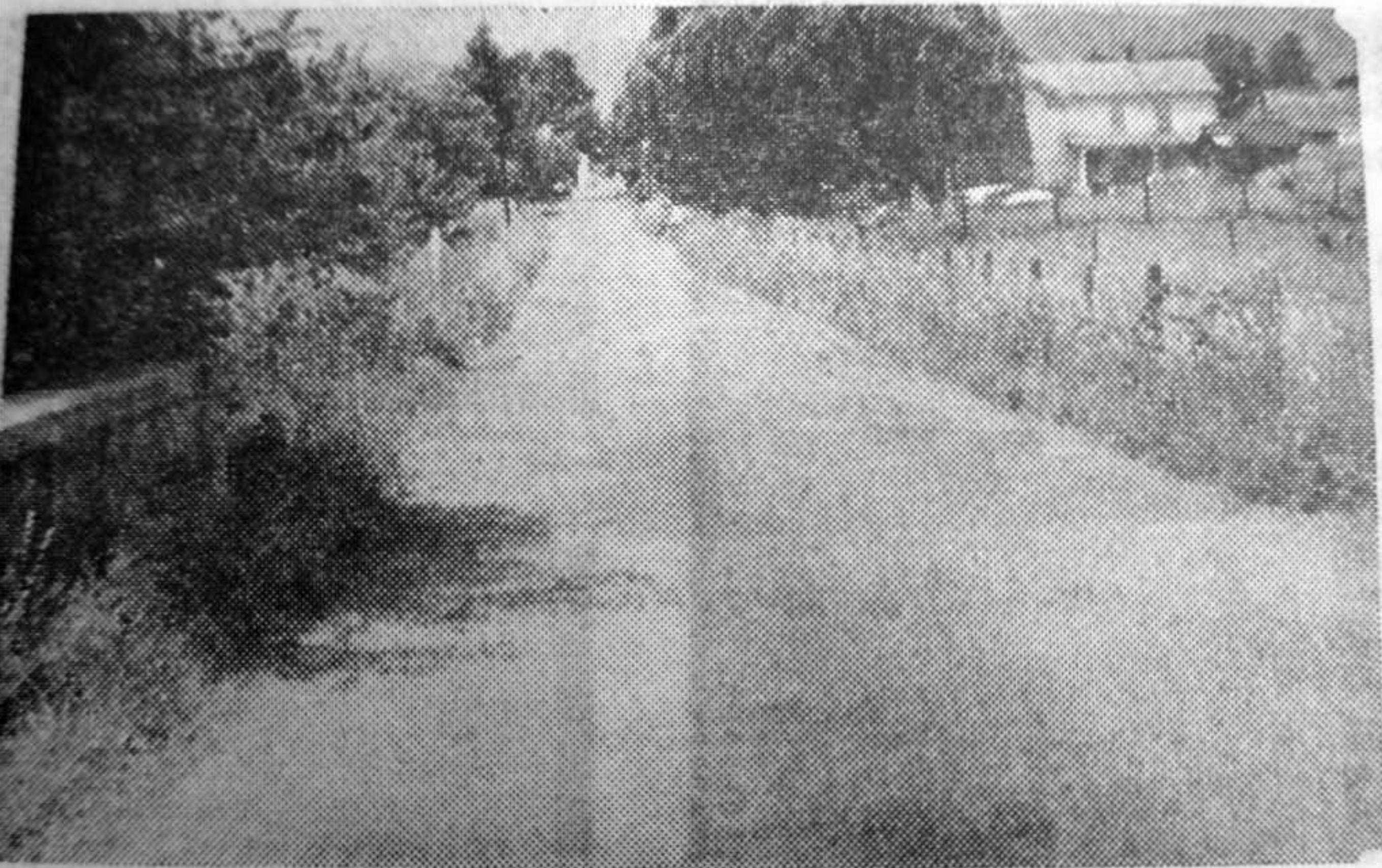
General store at Crabbottom, with Devil's Backbone beyond





Russell Rexrode stands in front of Varner house.





West from Bowd house, Potomac river to left.





Mrs. Swecker, Mrs. Snyder, Mr. Ritchie remember



# **Tol'able David Country Revisited**

**By Sam Neal**

This is the stuff dreams are made of — that is, forty years later.

First it was a short story in a popular weekly magazine, and later an even more popular motion picture was made from the story and attracted wide attention. Then as time passed most people forgot the happenings, but would be vaguely reminded of it if they chanced to read a highway marker in Pocahontas County, West Virginia, informing them this was the "Tol'able David" country. Soon it evoked memories far and near, and many who remembered the movie wanted to know more about "Tol'able David."



ories far and near, and many who remembered the movie wanted to know more about "Tol'able David."

Northern born Joseph Hergesheimer wrote the short story of Allegheny Mountain people and sold it to the Saturday Evening Post, a weekly magazine founded by the late Benjamin Franklin, of kite and lightning fame. Some imaginative script reader of a motion picture company read the story and saw possibilities. In time the officials of Inspiration Pictures, Inc., bought the screen rights and hired Hergesheimer to rewrite the story so it would be adaptable for screen use. They also retained the novelist on the payroll as consultant.

Since Hergesheimer had a first hand knowledge of the country he wrote of — geographically, that is — he sold the company on the idea of going to the section of the country where the story is supposed to have taken place. He had spent several summer weeks of a number of years in this mountain region and knew the country — if not the people.



## Less Than 5,000 Inhabitants

This area was in Highland County, Virginia, called by its proud highlanders "The Little Switzerland of Virginia." There was less than five thousand inhabitants in Highland County at this time and it was not touched by a railroad.

When one bears in mind that this was 1921, when the motion picture industry was still, of what one might say, adolescent age, Hergesheimer's suggestion was a revolutionary idea. That the company assented was a historical decision, for the result of their labors would be the first of the "regional pictures," and a classic in its own right.

The company left the home office with actors, directors, camera crew and other technical personnel, and reached Staunton, Virginia, June 28, 1921, on train No. 5. Since there was not a railroad to their destination: Monterey — and for that matter there is not a railroad there even today — busses were chartered to haul people and equipment the forty-six miles to the county seat of Highland. They were lodged in the three story,



thirty-two room Monterey Hotel. It was then under the management of a Mrs. White-law.

### **Unpaved Roads**

Although the movie company made its headquarters in Monterey, they readily accepted Hergesheimer's recommended locality for making the picture in and around a little hamlet by the name of Crabbottom. This small village was situated at the southern end of Crabbottom Valley, renowned for its pasture land and luxurious growth of blue grass. Although the second largest settlement in Highland County, Crabbottom was in the remote northern section of the county, about eight miles from Monterey. It was hardly more than two miles from the



In 1921 all roads in this mountain area were unpaved, being topsoiled and oft times rutty, and all smaller streams were forded instead of being bridged. Although Crabbottom Valley was rich farm land, and much of it cleared for grazing and cultivating, much of the hill area was rugged and inaccessible. Crabbottom Valley was watered by the Potomac River (in Highland County?), whose headwaters were at Hightown, near the Staunton-Parkersburg Turnpike. The headwaters of the James River were also in this section — less than half a mile from that of the Potomac River; the James flowing south, the Potomac easing northward.

### **Unusual Rock Formation**

The Potomac flowed by the hamlet of Crabbottom, and at this stage it was little more than a creek. As the river passed the hamlet it soon edged through a passage in rising mountain land; and the northern spur of this mountain would be used as a back-



drop for scenes in the motion picture. This mountain spur was a landmark of the section due to its unusual rock formation. Along the curved profile of the range extended a serrated line of jutting rock, giving it the appearance of a slumbering prehistoric monster. People of the community had always heard the range called the Devil's Backbone.

By 1921 standards, Crabbottom was a modern, progressive highland community. There was a bank solidly constructed of cast concrete blocks, a large, well stocked general store, an enormous framed grist mill near the river, a humming blacksmith shop, and even a small jewelry store; as well as eight or ten residences, most bordered with white picket fences. The main street, dirt, paralleled the river in an easterly direction, and in time became a road that came to the highway between Monterey and Franklin, West Virginia. Crabbottom was about two miles west of this highway — now U. S. Route 220.



and in time became a road that came to the highway between Monterey and Franklin, West Virginia. Crabbottom was about two miles west of this highway — now U. S. Route 220.

### **Rehearsing Begins**

Hergesheimer brought the movie crew to Crabbottom, and they began rehearsing and taking the outdoor scenes of the motion picture. This group consisted of the director, Henry King; stars and featured players, Richard Barthelmess, Gladys Hulette, Marion Abbott, Edmund Gurney, Warner Richmond, Forrest Robinson, Walter Lewis, Ernest Torrence, Ralf Brownsfield, Lawrence Eddineer and Henry Hallan. With them were cameramen and technicians. For extras and minor parts in the movie, the company sought the use of local people.

Although the theme of the story of "Tol'able David" is too far in the past to be even vaguely remembered, a general outline is of Allegheny Mountain country and an Allegheny Mountain boy who earn-



ed his maturity by combating the evil brutality of three villainous characters. The thrilling climax of the picture was David's bone-breaking combat to save the mail from three as unsavory and unvarnished rustics that ever graced the motion picture screen. That he overcame them is an epic of imaginary prose and cinematography.


### Young Star

Richard Barthelmess, the star of the picture, was a young man with established reputation as an actor, having starred in a recently widely acclaimed picture directed by David Ward Griffith, the foremost director of that period. This picture, "Way Down East," had won for Barthelmess a large following of admirers. He had



tion as an actor, having starred in a recently widely acclaimed picture directed by David Ward Griffith, the foremost director of that period. This picture, "Way Down East," had won for Barthelmess a large following of admirers. He had been loaned to Inspiration Pictures, Inc., to play the leading role in the picture to be made in Highland County.

Another actor who would be long remembered by his role in the movie was Ernest Torrence, who played a "heavy," or, better still, one of the bad guys. Of this group of actors, and actresses, who spent a month with the people of Crabbottom, Torrence is the one most often mentioned and whose characteristics are best remembered. There are lingering smiles as they reminisce of this long frame, evil eyed, scrawny, middle age actor, who projected himself from the screen as the most villainous villain of them all — excepting perhaps, the hate studded,



monocled Erich von Stroheim, also of that period.

When you talk to the people of Crabbottom — it's really Blue Grass now — of the picture made there forty-one years ago, they pause and smile, a softness will be in their voice, and a faraway look comes in their eyes. And the answer is almost always, "Ah, I wish I could see that movie again. I wonder if you could have it shown here? If it was here for a week, I'd see it every night!"

Mrs. B. T. Swecker stood under one of the twin stoops that fronted her home and recalled happenings of the movie making. The house, before Dr. Swecker purchased and made a number of changes, had been the Crabbottom House, and served lunches to many of the movie group. Mrs. Swecker remembered it sorely taxed the Rex-



called happenings of the movie making. The house, before Dr. Swecker purchased and made a number of changes, had been the Crabbottom House, and served lunches to many of the movie group. Mrs. Swecker remembered it sorely taxed the energies of Mrs. R. E. Rexrode, who then owned the Crabbottom House, to satisfy the varied tastes of silent screen thespians. Also, Dr. Swecker's father, Elbridge Swecker, had an important part in the movie, playing the role of the sheriff. She mentioned the scene where he was seated on the platform of the mill, stroking the head of his faithful dog.

Two neighbors who passed were called over to tell of any incidents of the picture they remembered. All spoke of

## HILLBILLY

the Bowd house, a log bodied structure that was used in much of the movie. It was there, Barthelmess trying to keep possession of the mail sack, fights Torrence and his two companions. The Bowd house was some distance from the village proper, on the far side of a run that entered the Potomac River, and near the Franklin and Monterey road. Almost directly over the site of the Bowd house is the Devil's Backbone. It is near the house that the mail sack was thrown in the river.

W. C. Snyder, the male member of the threesome, laughing-ly described an earlier scene at the Bowd house, when Torrence jerks green stemmed onions from the soil of the nearby garden, slaps them carelessly against the leg to loosen soil, then gulps sod and



## A Bit of Trickery

Mrs. Ivan Ritchie, the last to join the group, speaking the trickery used to add realism to the gory fight, was amazed the hurled chair that appeared to hit Barthelmess at a certain angle, missed him a mile by another view. And the liquid that appeared to be blood and was applied so liberally during the fight? That was the juice of mashed beets. Since the Bowd house was torn down many years ago, they were asked if any of them had a picture of the building. Mrs. Ritchie finally found a print taken of the house about the middle of the twenties. It was a good picture, but small, and the large number of the group tended to blanket the view of much of the building.

Actor Torrence would crop continuously in the conversation. He must have been an artful character! At times

...enties. It was a good pic-  
ture, but small, and the large  
member of the group tended  
blanket the view of much  
the building.

Actor Torrence would crop  
continuously in the con-  
versation. He must have been  
artful character! At times  
would seem to disassociate  
himself from his fellow actors  
and seek a hillside to rest;  
other times he would swing  
his lanky frame across the  
top of a tree and lose himself  
in the study of the movie  
script. He was friendly to the  
strangers of Crabbottom, and  
they saw soft lines in his  
amic visage.

Scenes of the movie were  
filmed elsewhere in the area;  
the time being spent at the  
Varner house, about four miles  
off the road to Hightown.  
Varner house was small  
somewhat similar to the  
other house, except it was  
shingled. However, it  
was not painted. Another thing  
must be borne in mind  
the picture



ridge worn with the  
rtant blend with the  
g the story. Detailed  
men- were taken of the  
he and general store, but  
m of poses of the better homes  
d of few, and only then be-  
assed they were near the road  
l of could not be moved. The  
cture fences added much to  
ke of color of the movie, and  
were seen often.

### Where Scenes Were Made

any scenes were made at  
Varner house, and the  
taking backdrop of blue-  
fields and rising moun-  
and. The house is located  
and lower than the road  
the outstanding feature  
ch the eye is the white  
chimney on the south  
of the house. Russell  
e, who now owns the  
house, said it is little



**A SCENE FROM THE MOVIE "TOL'ABLE DAVID"**  
(Richard Barthelmess and Gladys Hulette)

changed in forty years. Here scenes were made of the old mail coach; here were the heavy wrapped form of the baby was seen (it was really a dummy); and the rooster, who could claim star rating in the picture, was seen to strut across the yard, fly up on a crossed rail fence, flap his wings and cock-a-doodle-doo. Mr. Rexrode was of the opinion the Varner's received as payment for the use of the house a bright tin roof, to replace the time worn shingles. The Varner house is now used

taunt lines that were held by an assistant director, and not attached to the horses. Another incident at the Varner house that made him marvel at the ingenuity of the movie makers in their effort for realism was when they burned sulphur in the fireplace for the proper kind of "movie" smoke. Wagner probably saw more of the making of "Tol'able David" than any person not associated with the picture. And he, like most everyone else when questioned about the motion picture, says he did not think much about it then, but is



...baby was seen (it was really a dummy); and the rooster, who could claim star rating in the picture, was seen to strut across the yard, fly up on a crossed rail fence, flap his wings and cock-a-doodle-doo. Mr. Rexrode was of the opinion the Varner's received as payment for the use of the house a bright tin roof, to replace the time worn shingles. The Varner house is now used for hay storage.

### An Eyewitness

Another person who saw much of the making of "Tol'able David" is W. D. "Bunk" Wagner, who owns a service station on Route 220, about two miles south of Monterey. Mr. Wagner owned the team and ancient mail coach used so extensively in the picture. He explained that he came by the old conveyance when all stages were taken off the Staunton-Parkersburg Turnpike and the toll gates were closed. This came about during the First World War. Wagner bought the coach when it was offered for sale and put it to general use. Two horses pulled the vehicle. It had a durable top and three seats — two of these removable. The old mail coach had pro-

...incident at the Varner house that made him marvel at the ingenuity of the movie makers in their effort for realism was when they burned sulphur in the fireplace for the proper kind of "movie" smoke. Wagner probably saw more of the making of "Tol'able David" than any person not associated with the picture. And he, like most everyone else when questioned about the motion picture, says he did not think too much about it then, but is now sorry he failed to pay more attention.

The personnel of the movie company stayed at the Monterey Hotel, so naturally they attracted some attention. Turner Jones, a lawyer of Monterey, tells of holding horses for the lady members of the cast. The stable was up the street from the hotel, so the boys were told when to bridle the horses and wait for the ladies.

### Woman Smoking

And, oh yes! Mrs. Ritchie remembered that the first time she ever saw a woman smoke was when the movie company came to Crabbottom. One of the Ladies—Miss Hulette or Miss Abbott (or both) — non-chantly removed a cigarette from a pack, then struck a match and lit it. The people saw something they would also saw,

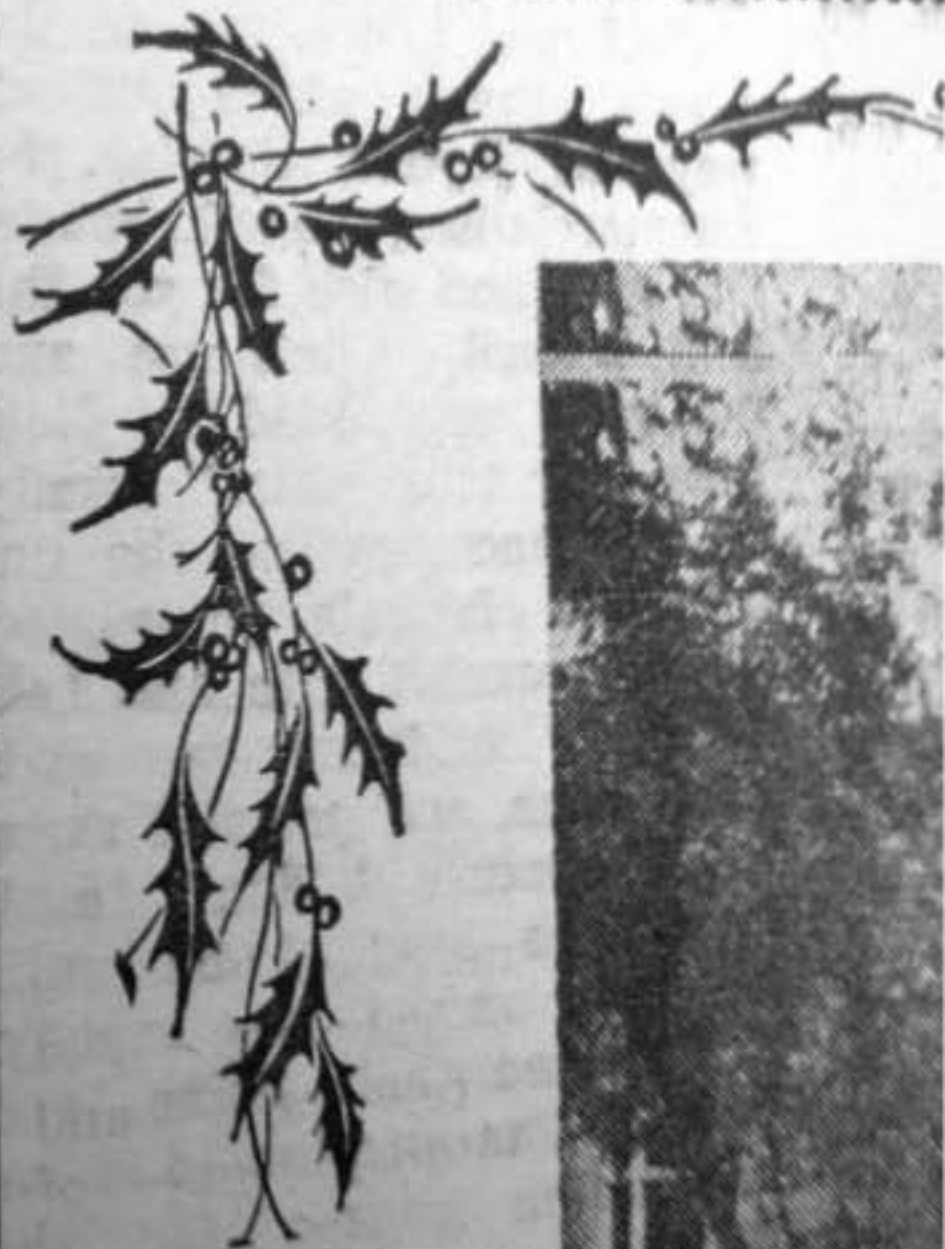
Mr. Wagner owned the team and ancient mail coach used so extensively in the picture. He explained that he came by the old conveyance when all stages were taken off the Staunton-Parkersburg Turnpike and the toll gates were closed. This came about during the First World War. Wagner bought the coach when it was offered for sale and put it to general use. Two horses pulled the vehicle. It had a durable top and three seats — two of these removable. The old mail coach had protected sides of a material similar to oilcloth, and could be raised or lowered to fit the occasion. The contraption was of ancient vintage, and when the movie prop men saw it they realized it would fit into the scheme of things. Wagner's coach and team were hired by the day for the goodly sum of six dollars. He never was in the picture, but was required to place the equipment on location where needed. Most of the time was spent in the Crabbottom community and the Varner house, but on a number of occasions he drove the coach to Cleek's Mill, about twenty miles south of Monterey. This location was sought because of the old mill and picturesque millrace. Bunk Wagner remembered the making of the scene of the

ells of holding horses for the lady members of the cast. The stable was up the street from the hotel, so the boys were told when to bridle the horses and wait for the ladies.

### Woman Smoking

And, oh yes! Mrs. Ritchie remembered that the first time she ever saw a woman smoke was when the movie company came to Crabbottom. One of the Ladies—Miss Hulette or Miss Abbott (or both) — nonchalantly removed a cigarette from a pack, then struck a match and lit it. The people saw something they would never forget. They also saw,

ty, then turned to complete indoor s estimated 000.00 i They we that the receive of this departu no one actors, ciated returni eph He turn, b county the pic After picture in ma





hired by the day for the good-  
ly sum of six dollars. He never  
was in the picture, but was  
required to place the equip-  
ment on location where need-  
ed. Most of the time was spent  
in the Crabbottom community  
and the Varner house, but on  
a number of occasions he  
drove the coach to Cleek's  
Mill, about twenty miles south  
of Monterey. This location was  
sought because of the old mill  
and picturesque millrace. Bunk  
Wagner remembered the mak-  
ing of the scene of the  
rooster crowing at the Varner  
house, and said it took most  
of the day, as well as tire-  
some waiting and faulty re-  
takes. The movie makers also  
used a means, he said, of tying  
the coach to a Model T truck,  
while the movie camera was  
operated from the truck body.  
This was not always satis-  
factory, for the tires stirred up  
so much dust it created a con-  
dition not in keeping with the  
scene. It was amusing to see  
the driver of the coach holding



A SCENE FROM THE MOVIE "TOL'ABLE DAVID"



taunt lines that were held by an assistant director, and not attached to the horses. Another incident at the Varner house that made him marvel at the ingenuity of the movie makers in their effort for realism was when they burned sulphur in the fireplace for the proper kind of "movie" smoke. Wagner probably saw more of the making of "Tol'able David" than any person not associated with the picture. And he, like most everyone else when questioned about the motion picture, says he did not think too much about it then, but is now sorry he failed to pay more attention.

The personnel of the movie company stayed at the Monterey Hotel, so naturally they attracted some attention. Turner Jones, a lawyer of Monterey, tells of holding horses for the lady members of the cast. The stable was up the street from the hotel, so the boys were told when to hold the horses.

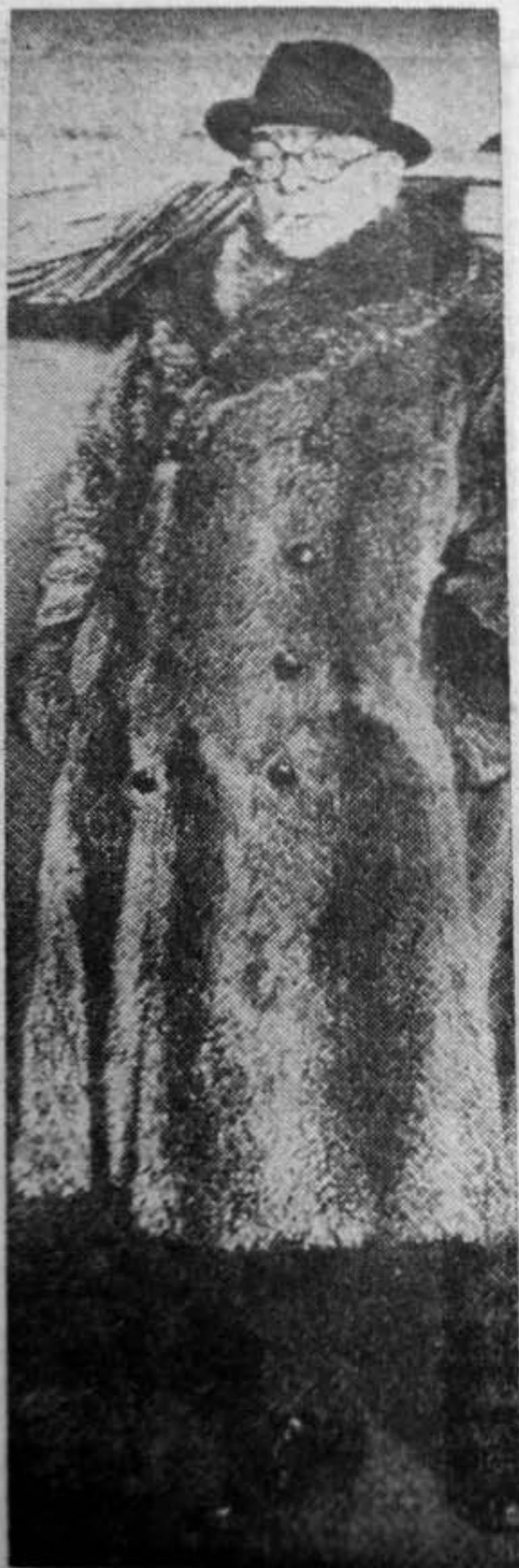
ture, says he did not mind too much about it then, but is now sorry he failed to pay more attention.

The personnel of the movie company stayed at the Monterey Hotel, so naturally they attracted some attention. Turner Jones, a lawyer of Monterey, tells of holding horses for the lady members of the cast. The stable was up the street from the hotel, so the boys were told when to bridle the horses and wait for the ladies.

### **Woman Smoking**

And, oh yes! Mrs. Ritchie remembered that the first time she ever saw a woman smoke was when the movie company came to Crabbottom. One of the Ladies—Miss Hulette or Miss Abbott (or both) — non-chantly removed a cigarette from a pack, then struck a match and lit it. The people saw something they would never forget. They also saw,





Joseph Hergesheimer  
Tol'able David's creator

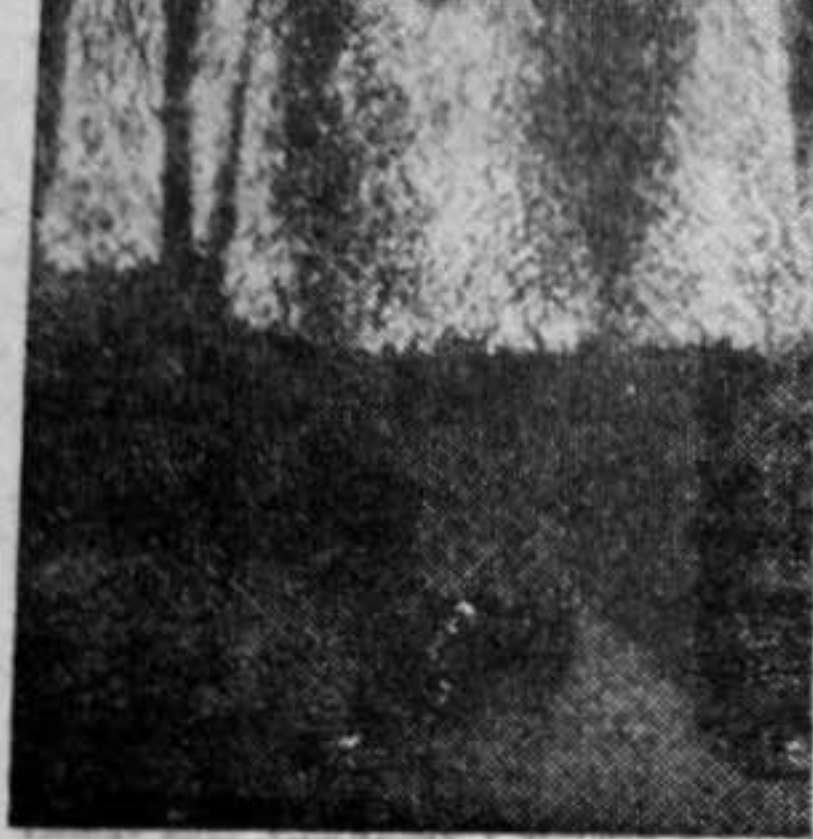
a spark of resentment would be fired in Highland County because of the sales pitch of the movie publicity men. They referred to the highland country as a "primitive world," and conveyed the impression these Virginia Highlanders lived as presented in the picture. The "Highland Recorder," the county's seventy-five year old newspaper, took issue to this adverse advertising, and let all natives know they had been deceived and misrepresented, and that none of the movie company would ever be welcome in the county. But time healed that feeling, too.

Twenty-odd years after the making of "Tol'able David," the name of the town where the movie was made changed its name. Crabbottom was renamed Blue Grass, after the district in which the village is located. Why change the name? That was a matter of feelings. The youth of the town came home with complaints; people laughed at the name Crabbottom. Those away at school were reluctant to give the name of their hometown. There could be other reasons, too. Anyway, the council brought it up for vote and Blue Grass was in and Crabbottom was out. Now Crabbottom, like the lovable story, "Tol'able David," is a vague memory in the past.

#### Town Changed Its Name

Blue Grass is Crabbottom;

without realizing it, the end of



**Joseph Hergesheimer**  
**Tol'able David's creator**

without realizing it, the end of an era for Crabbottom.

The movie company spent thirty days in Highland County, then departed. They returned to the home studio and completed the picture with indoor shots. The company estimated they spent \$30,000.00 in Highland County. They were also of the opinion that the people of the county received about \$250.00 a day of this expenditure. After the departure of the movie group no one recalls any of the actors, or anyone closely associated with the company, ever returning to the county. Joseph Hergesheimer would return, but he had ties with the county before the making of the picture.

After the completion of the picture and the showing of it in many parts of the country,

is located. Why change the name? That was a matter of feelings. The youth of the town came home with complaints; people laughed at the name Crabbottom. Those away at school were reluctant to give the name of their hometown. There could be other reasons, too. Anyway, the council brought it up for vote and Blue Grass was in and Crabbottom was out. Now Crabbottom, like the lovable story, "Tol'able David," is a vague memory in the past.

### **Town Changed Its Name**

Blue Grass is Crabbottom; the sturdy gray block bank is now the post office; a gasoline service station spreads a wide concrete surface where the huge mill once stood, and a building of mortar and steel covers the ground where once stood the frame shanty of the smithy. And the hewed logs of the Bowd house have long ago been consumed by flame, and the dusty road that David trod has been covered with rock and tar.

But wait! Two landmarks in their natural setting remain. And they are the work of nature. The Potomac River still laps northward over its pebble bed; and skyward, a thousand feet up, is the curved, serrated outline of the Devil's Backbone. Time and progress won't move them. They'll always be with us!



## Town Changed Its Name

Blue Grass is Crabbottom; the sturdy gray block bank is now the post office; a gasoline service station spreads a wide concrete surface where the huge mill once stood, and a building of mortar and steel covers the ground where once stood the frame shanty of the smithy. And the hewed logs

**JANUARY 4, 1964**

**RI**



**Wid**

**JANUARY 4, 1964**

**RICHW**

# Hoop Snake Chases Blackberry Picker

A man of Paden City, on the Ohio River, went into the hills blackberry picking, when he came upon a peculiar snake, and gave it a jolt with the stick he carried, and which any berry picker will carry if he has any brains at all.

The blow wasn't sufficient to put the snake out of commission, because it was a mighty peculiar snake, one that the berry picker wasn't familiar with, but he soon knew what kind of snake it was because it shoved itself in gear, took its tail in its mouth, and started rolling like a wheel after the man.

It was a hoop snake. Now as a coffin door nail. He knew man was faster for a time. But soon the snake started gaining, and coming along side of him, he stuck out his tail, which had a stinging horn on the end of it, rammed it right at the man. The man jumped aside, and the snake's pointed tail ran into a tree with such force that he couldn't get loose. Now the man had a chance to get in a good lethal lick and he did just that with what they call dispatch.

Two weeks later, on another berry picking jaunt, the man had a look at the tree. It was completely dead. All the leaves were brown.



# Baby's Cries Lead To Its Grave

The Harrison County woman couldn't sleep at night because a baby cried at a certain time and she became anxious and worried. The neighbors didn't pay much attention at first. The woman, however, started following the cries each night and at last she was led to a bit of cleared ground and she knew that something had been buried there.

She talked some men into digging and they unearthed the body of a newly born baby. It was buried in the church yard under a nameless stone and after that she never heard the baby again.

# The Devil Has Cloven Feet

This handsome young chap came to a lady's house in Wetzel County and said that he was asking for signatures in blood and wondered if the lady of the house would oblige him.

The lady of the house looked down and was horrified to see that the nice looking fellow had cloven feet and that he was in reality the devil. There are lots of people who can outsmart the devil and this lady was one of them.

She made like she was signing her name in blood, but she just used common old ball point pen. After her name she wrote "For the love of Jesus."

The man took one look and was as mad as the devil. He told her to take the book. He certainly couldn't keep it now. She kept the book and went over the signatures. She was surprised at the number of names of people that she knew.



found this morning.

## Salem Man Dug His Own Grave

Here's a little story out of the yellowed past that you might want to check on. Source: Charleston Daily Mail, August 27, 1922.

Salem, Aug. 26.— Page the secretary of the hall of fame. Here's a new candidate for the historic archives.

Harlow W. Willis, veteran water pumper for this city, has dug his own grave. And not content with that, he dug a grave for his wife.

The graves are not of the usual construction. Rectangular holes were dug in his cemetery lot. Then they were lined with concrete and re-filled with the soil that some day will cover the veteran water pumper and his consort.

"Oh, I suppose its a bit out of the ordinary to dig your own grave," Willis explained, "but I wanted to be sure I'd have a place to take my vacation when I get it."

The veteran pumper said he had not had a real vacation in his life.

"I've worked for the city for more than 22 years," he said, "and in all that time I've only had eleven days off duty. Those days off were taken when I just had to be away for one thing or another."

for one thing or another."


---

## Does Anybody Know Who Ike Hern Was?

A clipping came to our cluttered desk the other day with the date of January 19, 1920 at the top. It was a printing of a photo of a girl, evidently a movie star, with this simple caption:

"The one girl who is aided by three boys, one being Ike Hern, of this city, making up 'The Great Western Four,' who have closed at Keith's Palace, Cincinnati, Ohio, and will open at the Plaza tonight."

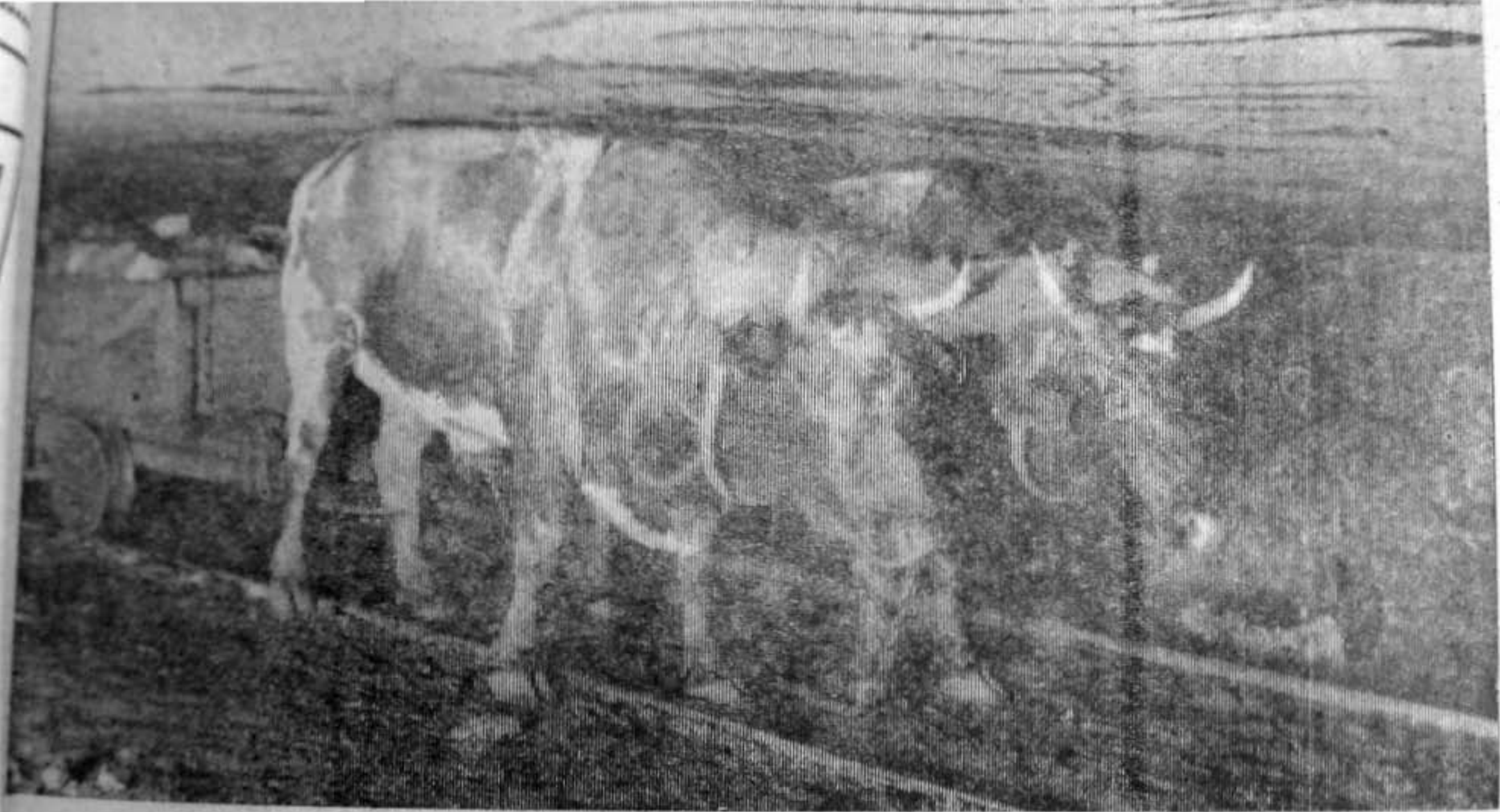
Evidently the Plaza was in Charleston. But the lady, why wasn't she named, and this Ike Hern, evidently a Charleston personage, who was he?





# There's Hillbillies Among Them Thar Cajuns

Usually the nosey editor of this paper asks people with furrin' addresses if they hail from West Virginia when they write for a subscription or a book or a record from the bookstore. One such was Claud Brewer, Jr., of Crowley, Louisiana, which place is about as furrin as one can get, being pretty much all French. This fellow wanted a subscription, so we wrote how come. He wrote back: "I married Ann Cornwell who is from Charleston. Her father was Harold Cornwell. I also have a daughter attending DeSalles Heights in Parkersburg. In addition my only brother lives in Huntington." Then he added, "By the way send a Centennial Record to Mrs. Gordon Dore of Crowley." It was like pulling teeth, but we went after it. Mrs. Dore. Is she West Virginia? Man writes back. "Be-



Apparently, some good enterprising operator wasn't satisfied with his tonnage and decided to 'beef-up' his main line haulage capacity. Anyhow the coal did roll, even though the four legged creatures providing the motivation, don't look happy about living the life of coal bank oxen. The picture is owned by E. I. Dansereau, district manager of Joy Manufacturing Company at Huntington. It is a copy of a print made at a southern West Virginia mine about fifty years ago.



# Prospectus Issued on Millpoint

A proposal for private capital to invest more than one million dollars for construction of a year-round resort in the scenic high country of West Virginia's Monongahela National Forest has been announced in a prospectus just issued by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service. The proposed development will operate around a base of outdoor recreation including hunting, fishing, hiking, golfing, swimming, horseback riding, and winter sports.

The brochure offers information on the potential for such an investment and outlines procedures to be followed by the prospective investor. The proposed area lies in the heavily forested southern part of the Monongahela National Forest at an elevation of 3,550 feet adjacent to State Route 39. The site is 22 miles east of Richwood and approximately 17 miles southwest of Marlinton. The State capital at Charleston lies 113 miles to the west.

The highland scenic highway, a

high-mountain recreation motor way planned for all-season use, will extend from a southern terminus on State Route 39 near Richwood in a northeasterly direction along the crest of the highest mountains in West Virginia, passing close by the resort. An interchange will be located near the lodge site.

The proposed lodge offers a unique opportunity for private capital to participate in the development of West Virginia's widely publicized recreation resources. Surrounded on all sides by the Monongahela National Forest, with a total acreage of 806,000 acres, the resort will be in a natural environment where protection of the natural re-

sources so necessary for a successful venture in the recreation field is assured. Prospective bidders can obtain a copy of the brochure and further detailed information from the office of the Forest Supervisor, Monongahela National Forest, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Elkins, West Virginia.

